

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3-5, 10-13 and 14-18 are amended. Claims 3-5, 10-13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 are amended for form. Support for the amendments to claims 15 and 17 can be found in Fig. 11 and the corresponding description specification, for example, paragraph [0173], and Fig. 12 and the corresponding description specification, for example, paragraphs [0181] and [0182], respectively. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 1, 2, 9 and 19-21 are allowed, and claims 3-8, 10 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and objections. The amendments above overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection and objections, and thus, Applicants respectfully assert that the application is in condition for allowance for at least these reasons discussed above and below.

II. The Claims Satisfy Formal Requirements

Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14-16 and 18 are objected to for informalities. By this Amendment, claims 3, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 18 are amended as requested in the Office Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 3, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, and claims 4, 7, 8 and 14 depending therefrom, satisfy formal requirements. Withdrawal of the objections is thus respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 5, 12, 13, 15 and 17 are amended in response to the rejection. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 5, 12, 13, 15 and 17, and claims 6,

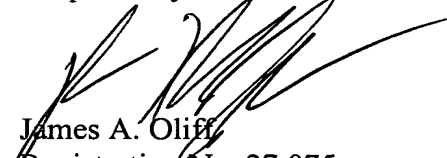
and 18, which depend from claim 5, and 13, respectively, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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